Formulation of export-friendly package of incentives

*348. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating an export-friendly package of incentives and promotional measures which will be compatible with WTO rules;

(b) whether it will be a medium term strategy to be operational for three to five years; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this policy and whether it will protect the industry from international competition especially China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The incentives and other promotional measures meant for boosting exports in India are export friendly and compatible with the WTO frame-work. As a result of various measures taken in the past to promote exports, the growth rate of exports is 20.7% in dollar terms for the period April-January, 2000-01 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The export promotion measures are revised every year at the time of announcement of the Exim Policy and necessary strategies are formulated to suit the requirements of the situation. The export friendly policies of the Exim policy announced last year include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures, setting up Special Economic Zones to further boost the exports etc.

(b) and (c) The medium term export strategy is formulated normally for a period of five years which in the present context would be for the period from 2001-2002 to 2006-2007. This will include examination of the import baskets of our major trading partners and commodity and country specificities. Such strategic initiatives in the export sector aim at enhancing the competitiveness of Indian exports in order to achieve high export growth on a sustained basis.

Cases pending before DRT, Hyderabad

*349. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed by each public sector bank before the Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh during the last three